

Town of Hanson
542 Liberty Street, Hanson, MA 02341

May 2013 Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting
May 6, 2013

Moderator Sean J. Kealy called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hanson Middle School with Robert Hayes, Kenneth Mitchell, Robert O'Brien appointed and sworn in to serve as tellers.

Town Counsel was Jeffrey Blake from the firm of Kopelman and Paige.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Steve Amico, called upon outgoing Town Administrator, Rene Read, to receive a citation presented by State Representative, Josh Cutler.

Laurie Muncy, the new Town Planner/Conservation Agent was introduced.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Town Meeting.

A presentation for the new school Maquan/Indian Head School was given by Mr. James Tuffo and Peter Turowski from the firm T-2.

A quorum was present with 231 voters in attendance.

The meeting was recessed at 7:50 p.m. to open the Special Town Meeting and will reconvene upon the dissolution of the Special Town Meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To hear reports of the various Town Officers, Committees, Special Committees, and act thereon.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: The Reports voted on are those published in the **2012** Town Report. To hear the report of the Maquan School Building Committee

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Richard Flynn
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to hear reports of the various Town Officers, Committees and Special Committees.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2014 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: Every year this article is voted. It simply allows the Treasurer/Collector to maintain accounts using credits instead of money to pay for banking charges.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Donald Howard

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal 2014 as permitted by Mass. General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$20,000 from overlay surplus for the Treasurer/Collectors tax title account or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Treasurer/Collector

Explanation: This money will be used to cover the costs incurred for filing and advertising properties with delinquent taxes, and also to pay any legal fees resulting from this process.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Stephen Amico

Second: James Egan

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$20,000 from overlay surplus for the Treasurer/Collectors tax title account.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to fix the Salary and Compensation of all paid Elected Officers and Committees of the Town as follows:

	FY13	FY14
Town Clerk	\$59,988.00	\$60,888.00
Tree Warden	\$2,687.00	\$2,768.00

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This article sets the salaries limits for the elected officials.
Article 5 funds the salaries.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: David Soper
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to fix the Salary and Compensation of all paid Elected Officers and Committees of the Town as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 5: To determine what sums of money the Town will raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from free cash, transfer from Town Ambulance Funds, Water Department Revenue, Water Surplus, Title V Special Revenue Fund, MWPAT Loan Repayments Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Conservation Notice of Intent Fund, Overlay Surplus, Stabilization Fund, Fund Balance Reserved for Reduction of Future Excluded Debt, and Election Fund Ch. 503, Acts of 1983 to defray charges and expenses of the Town, including Debt and Interest, and to provide for a reserve fund for the **2014 Fiscal Year** or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article refers to the FY 2014 Annual Budget Lines

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: James Egan
Second: Stephen Amico

Town Administrator, Rene' Read gave a presentation of the budget and introduced the chairman of the Finance Committee, Stephen McKinnon. Mr. McKinnon introduced the members of the Finance Committee and gave an account of each of their backgrounds.

VOTED Aye, voice the following FY 2014 Budget Appropriations. (The source of funding is raise and appropriate, by taxation, unless otherwise noted)

FY 2013

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

122 SELECTMEN/ADMINISTRATION

1. Salaries	\$	157,392
2. Expenses		24,335

131 FINANCE COMMITTEE

3. Salaries		1,550
4. Expenses		450
5. Reserve Fund		50,000

135 ACCOUNTANT

6. Salaries		94,799
7. Expenses		2,100
8. Audit		27,000

141 ASSESSORS

9. Salaries	130,502
10. Expenses	7,150

145 TREASURER/COLLECTOR

11. Salaries	167,130
12 Expenses	6,512
13 MWPAT Admin Expenses	15,000 MWPAT Title V Fund

151 LEGAL SERVICES

14. Expenses	140,000
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155 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

15. Expenses	114,000
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161 TOWN CLERK

16. Salaries	98,488
17. Expenses	3,570

162 ELECTIONS

18. Salaries	3,253
19. Expenses	5,342
20. Special Election Expenses	0

163 BOARD OF REGISTRARS

21. Salaries	7,150
22. Expenses	1,782

171 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

23. Salaries	54,893
24. Expenses	3,120

175 PLANNING BOARD

25. Salaries	57,493
26. Expenses	3,350

176 APPEALS BOARD

27. Salaries	31,333
28. Expenses	720

180 MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES

29. Expenses	0
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190 POSTAGE

30. Expenses	23,000
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192 MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

31. Salaries	47,387
32. Expenses	11,250

196 UTILITIES

33. Expenses	<u>95,250</u>	
SUBTOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		1,385,301

PUBLIC SAFETY:

210 POLICE

34. Salaries	1,655,209
35. Expenses	121,358
36. Capital Outlay	37,743

215 COMMUNICATIONS

37. Salaries	300,113
38. Expenses	25,540

220 FIRE & AMBULANCE

39. Salaries	1,231,150
	207,500 Ambulance Fund
40. Expenses	118,752
	20,000 Ambulance Fund
41. Capital Outlay	46,891

241 BUILDING INSPECTION

42. Salaries	74,329
43. Expenses	4,000

242 GAS INSPECTION

44. Salaries	4,391
45. Expenses	0

243 PLUMBING INSPECTION

46. Salaries	4,182
47. Expenses	0

244 WEIGHTS & MEASURES

48. Salaries	3,090
49. Expenses	400

245 WIRING INSPECTION

50. Salaries	16,727
51 Expenses	0

292 ANIMAL CONTROL

52. Salaries	27,518
53. Expenses	2,670

294 TREE WARDEN

54. Salaries	2,768
55. Expenses	<u>3,500</u>
SUBTOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	3,907,831

EDUCATION:

300 WHITMAN-HANSON REGIONAL

56. Operating Assessment	7,224,087
57. Transportation Assessment	89,377
58. Debt Assessment	432,037

59. 330 SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL TECH	799,881
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60. 340 NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL	<u>199,252</u>
SUBTOTAL, EDUCATION	8,744,634

PUBLIC WORKS:

410 ENGINEERING

61. Expenses	10,000
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420 HIGHWAY

62. Salaries	409,460
63. Expenses	95,290
64. Snow & Ice	140,000
65. Street Sweeping	26,000

424 TOWN-WIDE FUEL

66. Expenses	120,000
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430 SOLID WASTE

67. Salaries	88,026
68. Expenses	<u>165,884</u>
SUBTOTAL, PUBLIC WORKS	1,054,660

HUMAN SERVICES:

511 BOARD OF HEALTH

69. Salaries	88,889
70. Expenses	4,360
71. VNA Services	500

541 COUNCIL ON AGING

72. Salaries	49,628
73. Expenses	8,719
74. VNA Services	7,800

543 VETERANS

75. Salaries	13,970
76. Expenses	900
77. Assistance	42,500

544 CARE OF SOLDIERS GRAVES

78. Expenses	<u>1,500</u>
SUBTOTAL, HUMAN SERVICES	218,766

CULTURE & RECREATION:

610 LIBRARY

79. Salaries	241,824
80. Expenses	118,039

630 RECREATION

81. Salaries	30,000
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650 PARK & FIELDS

82. Expenses	10,000
83. 692 PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCE COMM	<u>2,000</u>
SUBTOTAL, CULTURE & RECREATION	401,863

FIXED COSTS:

710 DEBT SERVICE

84. Principal	395,217
	107,500 MWPAT Rcpts reserved
85. Interest	161,061
	5,101 Debt Premium reserved
86. 911 PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT	1,109,316
87. 913 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	25,000
88. 914 GROUP INSURANCE	1,442,023
89. 945 RISK MANAGEMENT	<u>252,819</u>
SUBTOTAL, FIXED COSTS	3,498,037

SUB TOTAL **\$ 19,211,092**

WATER:

90. Salaries	368,419 Water Revenue
91. Expenses	345,650 Water Revenue
92. Debt Service	205,021 Water Revenue
93. Indirect Cost	<u>140,000 Water Revenue</u>
SUBTOTAL, WATER	1,059,090

TOTAL – ALL BUDGETS - GRAND TOTAL **\$ 20,270,182**

ARTICLE 6: To determine whether the Town will appropriate and raise by taxation or transfer from other available funds the additional sum of \$210,411.00 for paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District; provided, however, that the amounts raised and appropriated hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a so-called Proposition 2 ½ override question in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws or take any other action in relation thereto

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article also requires the voter approval of the ballot question at the May 18, 2013 Annual Town Election. If so approved, the funds will be added to the Whitman Hanson Regional School budget.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Richard Flynn
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye 176, Nay 21 (2/3's achieved) to determine whether the Town will appropriate and raise by taxation or transfer from other available funds the additional sum of \$210,411.00 for paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District; provided, however, that the amounts raised and appropriated hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a so-called Proposition 2 ½ override question in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 21C(g) of the General Laws.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund collective bargaining agreements with any one or more of the following employee organizations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013:

1. Hanson Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Administrative Professionals Union
2. Hanson Police Dispatchers, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Police Dispatchers Union
3. Hanson Permanent Firefighter's Association, A.F.L.-C.I.O., Local 2713
4. Hanson Highway Employees, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1700,
Hanson Highway Union
5. Hanson Police Officers, Hanson Police Relief Association/MassCop Local 408

or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article will fund collective bargaining agreements for positions in each of the contracts to be noted in the motion to be made at Town Meeting.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: James Egan

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to fund collective bargaining agreements with any one or more of the following employee organizations for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013 as follows:

- **Voted-Aye, voice to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,433 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Hanson Municipal Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700, Hanson Administrative Professionals Union, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014.**
- **Voted-Aye, voice to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,400 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Hanson Police Dispatchers, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700, Hanson Police Dispatchers Union, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014.**
- **Voted-Aye, voice to raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,263 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Hanson Permanent Firefighter's Association, A.F.L.C.I.O., Local 2713, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014.**
- **Voted-Aye, voice to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,180 for the purpose of funding a collective bargaining agreement with the Hanson Highway Employees, AFSCME, Council 93, Local 1700, Hanson Highway Union, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014.**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money from Free Cash for the purpose of making the first annual payment in a three (3) year annual lease payment plan to purchase two (2) police cruisers, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Police Chief

Explanation:~~~~~ This article will fund the purchase of two (2) new Police Department cruisers. The first year lease payment is approximately \$23,000.00

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Joseph Yakavonis

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, unanimous to transfer \$23,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of making the first annual payment in a three (3) year annual lease payment plan to purchase two (2) police cruisers.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Capital Improvement Program as presented by the Capital Improvement Committee and to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds \$299,500 to various department Capital Accounts, or take any other action relating thereto.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen

Line	Dept.	Item	FY14 CIP Report	Town Admin. Recommendation	Funding Source
1	Highway	Dump/Sanding Truck	\$128,500	\$128,500	Free Cash
2	Fire	2 Heart Monitors & 4 AEDs	\$63,000	\$63,000	Ambulance Account
3	Fire	Replace Car #	\$48,000	\$48,000	Free Cash
4	BOS	Town Hall Restoration/Painting	\$60,000	\$60,000	Free Cash
	TOTAL		\$299,500	\$299,500	

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to appropriate funds for the Fiscal year 2014 capital budget.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: James Egan

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to adopt the Capital Improvement Program as presented by the Capital Improvement Committee and to see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from available funds \$299,500 to various department Capital Accounts as printed in the warrant as follows:

- **Highway – Dump/Sanding Truck - \$128,500 from Free Cash**
- **Fire – 2 Heart monitors & 4 AEDs - \$4,950 from Ambulance Account (Motion to amend #2 by Jerry Thompson 2nd by Stephen Amico, Voted, aye voice to amend Article #2 to the amount of \$4,950.**
- **Fire – Replace Car - \$48,000 from Free Cash**
- **Board of Selectmen – Town Hall Restoration/Painting -\$60,000 from Free Cash**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town of Hanson will accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, establishing Recreation Programs as an enterprise fund effective fiscal year 2014, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
and the Recreation Commission

Explanation: The Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission are recommending that the Recreation Department budget be established as an enterprise fund.~ Enterprise fund accounting is recommended by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for those municipal operations that are substantially self-supporting services.~ Enterprise fund accounting will demonstrate to the voters at Town Meeting and the public the full cost (direct, indirect and capital) of operating the Department. ~If this Article is approved, the voters at Town Meeting will be asked to approve the Recreation Department budget in Article 11.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Stephen Amico
Second: Donald Howard

VOTED Aye, voice to accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, establishing Recreation Programs as an enterprise fund effective fiscal year 2014 and to authorize the Town Accountant to transfer the Recreation Revolving Fund any remaining fund balance as of June 30, 2013 to the new Recreation Enterprise Fund.

ARTICLE 11: To see of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to operate the Recreation Department during fiscal year 2014, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ .

Estimated Revenues

Item	Amount
Program Receipts (fees)	\$198,000
Total Budgeted Revenues:	\$198,000

Estimated Expenses

Item	Amount
Salaries	\$111,025
Expenses	\$ 86,975
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$198,000

Net Profit/Loss: \$0.00

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen
and the Recreation Commission

Explanation: If Article 10 is approved by the voters at Town Meeting, Article 11 will establish the Recreation Enterprise Fund budget for FY14. Recreation program costs, which previously were shown in both the General Fund budget and Revolving Fund budget, will now be shown in this Enterprise Fund budget. With the exception of the Administrative Assistant position, all costs related to the operation of Camp Kiwanee are projected to be offset by the program revenues. All surpluses of this account at the end of the year will remain within the account.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: David Soper
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to raise and appropriate the following sums of money to operate the Recreation Department during fiscal year 2014, under the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F ½ as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free cash to be added to Stabilization or take

any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Town Administrator

Explanation: This money will be used to increase the Stabilization Fund. A stabilization fund is a mechanism for setting aside money either for unforeseen needs or for capital projects. Such a fund is intended to equalize the effect of capital expenditures over time and to provide a “rainy day” fund. The dollar amount appropriated under this article will increase the Stabilization Fund to \$934,000 which represents 4.85% of the operating budget. The Town’s target has been to maintain close to 5% which is the industry standard minimum amount for Stabilization Funds as recommended by our auditors and will help to maintain a positive bond rating for future borrowing purposes.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Richard Flynn
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice pass over Article 12.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from **Fiscal Year 2014 Community Preservation Fund estimated** annual revenues in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for committee administrative expenses, community preservation projects and other expenses in fiscal year 2014, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses~~~~ \$ 10,000

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Reserves:

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Historic Resource Reserve \$20,000

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$20,000

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$20,000

From FY 2014 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$130,000

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or take any other action in relation thereto.

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Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This article ensures that Hanson’s Community Preservation Accounts are compliant with the Community Preservation Act which requires that a certain portion of the CPA funds be set aside for open space projects, community housing projects, historical projects and recreation projects. In addition, it sets aside money for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Laura Kemmett
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to appropriate or reserve from Fiscal Year 2014 Community Preservation Fund estimated annual revenues as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,000 from the Historic Resource Reserve Community Preservation Fund balance to be used by the Hanson Historical Society to purchase the components needed to build a digital book scanner. This book scanner will be used by the Hanson Historical Society to digitize the historical books and documents in its collection and will also be available for other town departments to use or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: The majority of the documents and books in the Hanson Historical Society's collection are in a rapid state of deterioration threatening the ability for future generations to enjoy and access them. This book/document scanner, once built, would allow for the easy and reliable conversion of these documents into digital formats. The Town Clerk, Town Assessors, and Library also have historical documents/books that would benefit from digitization. Once converted, rare manuscripts, books, and documents held by the town of Hanson could be easily disseminated and access to these resources increased without subjecting them to constant wear and risk. This technology has been used successfully by museums and libraries. The Hanson Historical Society will pay for the labor required to build this scanner. This Article clarifies the expenditure voted in Article 15 of the October 2012 Special Town Meeting. This Article does not appropriate additional funds.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Patty Norton
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to use the funds appropriated in Article 15 of the October 2012 Special Town Meeting from the Historic Resource Reserve Community Preservation Fund balance to be used by the Hanson Historical Society to purchase the components needed to build a digital book scanner. The book scanner will be used by the Hanson Historical Society to digitize the historical books and documents in its collection and will also be available for other town departments.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to be used for the construction of an outdoor recreation area at the Whitman Hanson Regional High School or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the
Community Preservation Committee

Explanation: This recreation area will be open to the general public and once completed will include beach volleyball, basketball courts, street hockey, a fitness trail and other park amenities. The money from CPA will fund a portion of this project and the remainder of this project will be completed using goods and services donated in-kind as well as funds that have been privately donated.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Patty Norton
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to appropriate \$50,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to be used for the construction of an outdoor recreation area at the Whitman Hanson Regional High School.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000 from water surplus to purchase & equip a water truck for Superintendent's use or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: ~ This new truck will replace the 2003 Ford which currently has an odometer reading of approximately 120,000 miles.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Joseph Michael Duffy

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$30,000 from water surplus to purchase & equip a water truck for Superintendent's use.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$50,000 from water surplus to purchase and install emergency generators for the water department office at 1073 West Washington Street, and the High Street storage tank or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: ~This will provide emergency power to keep the water department office open during storms. The generator for the office will consist of a pad mount generator with automatic transfer switch capability. The generator for the water storage tank will consist of a trailer-mounted unit.

Finance Committee recommends to hold.

Motion: Joseph Michael Duffy
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$50,000 from water surplus to purchase and install emergency generators for the water department office at 1073 West Washington Street, and the High Street storage tank.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$10,000 from Water Surplus to be added to the 1992 Town Meeting Emergency Fund Article 15 or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: This is to replenish the Emergency Account which is used for unforeseen expenditures which are not in the general budget.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Donald Howard
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$10,000 from Water Surplus to be added to the 1992 Town Meeting Emergency Fund Article 15.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$30,000 from Water Surplus for the purpose of buying new water meters and related equipment or take any other action thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Water Commissioners

Explanation: ~This is the on-going meter replacement program designed to maintain accurate reading records.

Finance Committee recommends.

Motion: Mary Lou Sutter
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to transfer \$30,000 from Water Surplus for the purpose of buying new water meters.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into a contract for the expenditure of any allocated or to be allocated funds by the Commonwealth and/or County for the construction, reconstruction and

improvements of Town roads. Said sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, or to take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article is a requirement of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Town of Hanson to accept state funding, including Chapter 90 funding for accepted roadways. This article authorizes use of funds which will be 100% reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The budget approved each fiscal year by the legislature and governor establishes the total funding available for Chapter 90 local transportation aid for that year. These funds are then apportioned to the 351 Massachusetts towns and cities.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Donald Howard

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept and enter into a contract for the expenditure of any allocated or to be allocated funds by the Commonwealth and/or County for the construction, reconstruction and improvements of Town roads. Said sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, a permanent easement for public way purposes in a certain parcel of land at or near Winter Street and shown as "Easement" on a plan of land entitled: "Easement Plan of Land 948 Winter Street, Hanson, Massachusetts," dated January 24, 2013, prepared by Land Planning, Inc. (the "Plan"), on file with the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto.~

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to acquire an easement over property at 948 Winter Street, which was the subject of litigation concerning the Winter Street Bridge Construction Project in 2010.~ The easement will allow the Town to perform any necessary maintenance and repair work in the easement area as it is described on the Plan.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Stephen Amico

Second: Richard Flynn

VOTED Aye, voice to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, a permanent easement for public way purposes in a certain parcel of land at or near Winter Street and shown as "Easement" on a plan of land entitled: "Easement Plan of Land 948 Winter Street, Hanson, Massachusetts," dated January 24, 2013, prepared by Land Planning, Inc. (the "Plan"), on file with the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE~~22: To see if the Town will vote to increase the amount of funding for STAP (Senior Tax Abatement Program) under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law 59, Section K or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Assessors

Explanation: ~May 2003 Special Town Meeting accepted MGL. Ch.59, Section K, which provides residents over 60 years of age to volunteer their services to the municipality in exchange for a reduction of up to \$750.00 per fiscal year, based on a rate per hour of services that cannot exceed the commonwealth minimum wage.~ At the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting, the amount approved would not exceed \$15,000, which would be paid from the overlay account.~ The program has grown in popularity and the Board of Assessors recommend increasing the amount to \$22,500.~ These funds would be paid from the overlay account

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Kathleen Marini

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to increase the amount of funding for STAP (Senior Tax Abatement Program) under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 5K.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the following revolving accounts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, which shall be kept separate and apart from other monies by the Treasurer, and which shall be deposited receipts received that may be spent only from those sources identified below under “Source of Funds” without further appropriation during Fiscal Year 2014 and as identified below under “Use of Funds”, and shall be expended under the direction of those so indicated. Said annual amount expended from each revolving account shall not exceed the amount indicated below under “Annual Expenditure”

Source of Funds	Use of Funds	Expended Under Direction of:	FY 14 Limit
Assessors Counter Sales of Maps	Purchase and Maintenance of maps including GIS	Board of Assessors	\$1,500
Parks & Fields Recycling, rental fees Repair reimbursement & Donations	Park & Field Maintenance and equipment	Parks & Fields	\$20,000
Library Fines, Fees and Copier Charges	Library Operations, Copier Purchase, maintenance, Repair & supplies. Printer Supplies. Replacement of Lost or damaged books	Board of Library	\$7,000
Senior Center Events, programs and Education Seminars	Senior Center Operations Events, programs, Seminars Training & Reimbursements	Director of Elder Affairs	\$2,500
Senior Center Program Fees	Supportive Day Care Program	Director of Elder Affairs	\$110,000
Conservation Comm. Wetlands Fees	Engineering, Surveying Legal & Environmental Consulting	Conservation Commission	\$7,500

or take any other action in relation thereto.

Proposed by the Board of Selectmen

Explanation: There are the annual revolving accounts which have been consolidated into one article to streamline the warrant process.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: James Egan

Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice to reauthorize the following revolving accounts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44,

Section 53E ½ as printed in the warrant.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Hanson General By-laws, Article 3 – 5 – Farm Animals by adding a new Section 2 as follows:

Section 2 - Right to Farm

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this By-law is to state with emphasis the Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97, of the Constitution, and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9, Chapter 111, Section 125A and Chapter 128 Section 1A. We the citizens of Hanson restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, ("Home Rule Amendment").

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Hanson ("Town") by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Definitions

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of agriculture, or accessory thereto. The words "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a) farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- b) dairying;
- c) production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- d) growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- e) raising of livestock including horses; and
- f) keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.

"Farming" shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the Town;
- b) control of pests, including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- c) application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- d) conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- e) processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- f) maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- g) on-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

Section 3 Right To Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist within the Town. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protections of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to those agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, or local zoning law.

Section 4 Disclosure Notification

Not later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the purchase and sale contract is entered into, or prior to the sale or exchange of real property if no purchase and sale agreement exists, for the purchase or exchange of real property, or prior to the acquisition of a leasehold interest or other possessory interest in real property, located in the Town, the landowner shall present the buyer or occupant with a disclosure notification which states the following notice:

“It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food, and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances.”

A copy of the disclosure notification shall be given on a form prepared by the Town and shall be signed by the landowner prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. A copy of the disclosure notification must be filed with the Board of Selectmen or its designee prior to the sale, purchase, exchange or occupancy of such real property. In addition to the above, a copy of this disclosure notification shall be provided by the Town to landowners each fiscal year by mail.

A violation of Section 4 shall be subject to a fine of \$300 and shall be enforced by the Board of Selectmen or its designee. The Town is authorized to enforce Section 4 under the non-criminal disposition provision of M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board, Animal Inspector or the Board of Health (collectively the “Town Departments”), depending upon the nature of the grievance. The filing of the written grievance must be in compliance with the Town grievance procedure; however, filing of such written grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have.

Except in the event the Board of Health determines there is a case of imminent danger or a public health risk, the Town Departments shall forward a copy of any agricultural related grievance to the Hanson Agricultural Commission within seven (7) calendar days of receipt. The Hanson Agricultural Commission shall review and facilitate a recommended resolution of the grievance, and report its recommendations to the referring Town Department within an agreed upon time frame.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

Proposed by the Agricultural Commission

Explanation: A proposed Hanson Right-to-Farm bylaw (“RTF Bylaws”) is an important tool that can bolster a community’s efforts to protect the viability of farming.

The intent of such the RTF Bylaw is to reiterate the importance of - and support for - farming within the Town of Hanson. It does so in four primary ways: 1) it restates agricultural laws already in place in the Commonwealth; 2) it includes a notification provision that works to ensure that people moving into Hanson are aware that agriculture, and the associated sights, sounds, and smells, is an accepted economic and cultural activity; 3) it seeks to prevent conflicts between farm operations and neighbors by putting in place a dispute resolution process; and 4) it will improve Hanson’s ability to obtain state funding for energy, smart growth, and conservation projects.

The proposed RTF Bylaw is based on a model approved by the Commonwealth’s Attorney General. As of December 31, 2012 there were 124 communities in the Commonwealth that have adopted a similar RTF Bylaw, including Duxbury, Kingston, Middleborough, Plymouth and East Bridgewater.

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Stephen Croghan
Second: David Soper

**VOTED Nay, voice to amend the Hanson General By-laws,
Article 3 – 5 – Farm Animals by adding a new Section 2 as printed in the warrant.**

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to amend certain provisions of the Acceptance by the Town of the Community Preservation Act, known as Chapter 44B of Massachusetts General Law, by reducing the surcharge from 1.5% to .5%, and further to submit such reduction of the surcharge, if approved by the Town meeting, for acceptance by the voters of the Town of Hanson at the next qualifying Town or State Election or take any action in relation thereto.

Proposed by Barbara Murphy and 22 voters

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Barbara Murphy
Second: Anne Merlin

VOTED Nay, voice to amend certain provisions of the Acceptance by the Town of the Community Preservation Act, known as Chapter 44B of Massachusetts General Law, by reducing the surcharge from 1.5% to .5%, and further to submit such reduction of the surcharge, if approved by the Town meeting, for acceptance by the voters of the Town of Hanson at the next qualifying Town or State Election.

ARTICLE 26: To bring in their votes for the following offices:~ A Moderator for one year, a Selectmen for three years, an Assessor for three years, a Town Clerk for three years, a Board of Health member for three years, a Cemetery Commissioner for three years, a member of the Planning Board for five years, a member of the Housing Authority for five years, a Tree Warden for three years, two Trustees of Memorial Field for three years, one Trustee of Memorial Field for one year,~ two Trustees of the Public Library for three years, two members of the Whitman- Hanson Regional School District Committee PreK-12 for three years, ~two Water Commissioners for three years, and one Water Commissioner for two years and one question:

1. Shall the Town of Hanson be allowed to assess an additional \$210,411 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of paying the Town's assessed share of the Fiscal Year 2014 operating budget of the Whitman Hanson Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?

Yes_____ No_____

Finance Committee refers to Town Meeting.

Motion: Sean Kealy
Second: Stephen Amico

VOTED Aye, voice at 11:12 p.m. to recess until Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria of the Maquan School to take up Article 26 and to dissolve the meeting upon the closing of the polls.

A true copy of the vote, Attest:

**Elizabeth Sloan, CMC
Town Clerk**

